A.N.C.
COWGIRL ROMANCES
COWGIRL Romances
No.7
10¢
FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINES
30TH YEAR!
NOBODY LOVES A GUN MAN
THE RANGE OF TWISTED BRANDS
AND OTHER THRILLING WESTERN ROMANCES!

Meet The Man...

Who Can Tell You How To Lick

PIMPLES

ACNE AND ALL OTHER EXTERNALLY CAUSED SKIN BLEMISHES And Make Them

DISAPPEAR FROM SIGHT.... *instantly!*

Here is Mr. John A. Rubine, Ph.G. — a well-known pharmacist who has spent almost 20 years trying to solve one of the most vexing problems of youth — and adults too — unsightly, acne pimples, blackheads and similar externally caused skin conditions.

They are indeed a serious problem, for nothing can do more to ruin your chances of success and popularity than a face made ugly with pimples and blackheads. And, if neglected, acne pimples may leave permanent scars and pits.

Mr. Rubine, after much experimenting and research in cooperation with doctors and chemists, found what he was seeking — a formula that would lick acne pimples and other externally caused skin blemishes. He succeeded beyond his fondest expectations and he was so proud of his treatment that he gave it his own name — **RUBIN-EX**.

HE BLESSES RUBIN-EX! No one can realize the humiliation — almost disgrace — of a face marred by pimples and blackheads. I had them so bad that I felt no one wanted to look at me. Today my pimples are gone — and I bless Rubin-Ex — that did it.— Mr. Bob I.R., Long Island.

LUCKY DAY FOR HER! For years I was embarrassed and ashamed of my pimply face and blotchey complexion. It was a lucky day for me when I was told about Rubin-Ex. My pimples disappeared from sight instantly and my complexion improved 100%.—Miss Jane G.L., Bronx.

DOUBLE ACTION! DOUBLE QUICK RESULTS!

The sensational Rubin-Ex treatment works two ways:
A. Makes acne pimples and all other skin blemishes INSTANTLY DISAPPEAR FROM SIGHT.
B. Its medication cleans up pimples, blackheads.
When thousands of tiny oil glands discharge more oil than your skin can absorb, the excess oil picks up and holds tiny particles of dust, dirt, grime, grit, bacteria. This foreign matter soon clogs up and enlarges your pores, form blackheads, cause infection and soon you have a fine crop of ugly, red acne pimples.
Rubin-Ex FORMULA #1 is a special cleaning agent that really gets down in the skin pores and thoroughly cleans them out as no soap can. It also removes excess oil thus correcting excessive oiliness in your skin, one of the principal causes of pimples and blackheads.

Rubin-Ex FORMULA #2 is great news. When applied to your face it makes pimples and other unsightly blemishes **disappear from sight instantly.**
And while it is hiding your ugly blemishes from critical eyes, its medication is actually at work to clean them up. It contains an ingredient that relieves the fiery itching, another to soothe and heal the irritation, and still another which gently and harmlessly flakes off the dead, hard outer skin, leaving your face and complexion much smoother and clearer. You can use Rubin-Ex day and night, for it is neutral when applied and does not interfere with make-up. Makes an excellent powder base.

HOW YOU MAY TRY RUBIN-EX AT OUR RISK

Mr. Rubine is so sure that his treatment will improve your skin and complexion in just 10 days that he is making this No Risk Offer. He says, "Use Rubin-Ex for 10 days. If you do not notice a marked improvement in your skin and complexion, if you are not entirely pleased and happy with results, your money will be refunded at once." So start now for a clearer, lovelier skin and complexion, the magic way to popularity and success. Order Rubin-Ex today. MAIL COUPON NOW.

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SKIN-TEX CORP, 69-47 218 St., Dept. FH, Bayside, L. I., N. Y.

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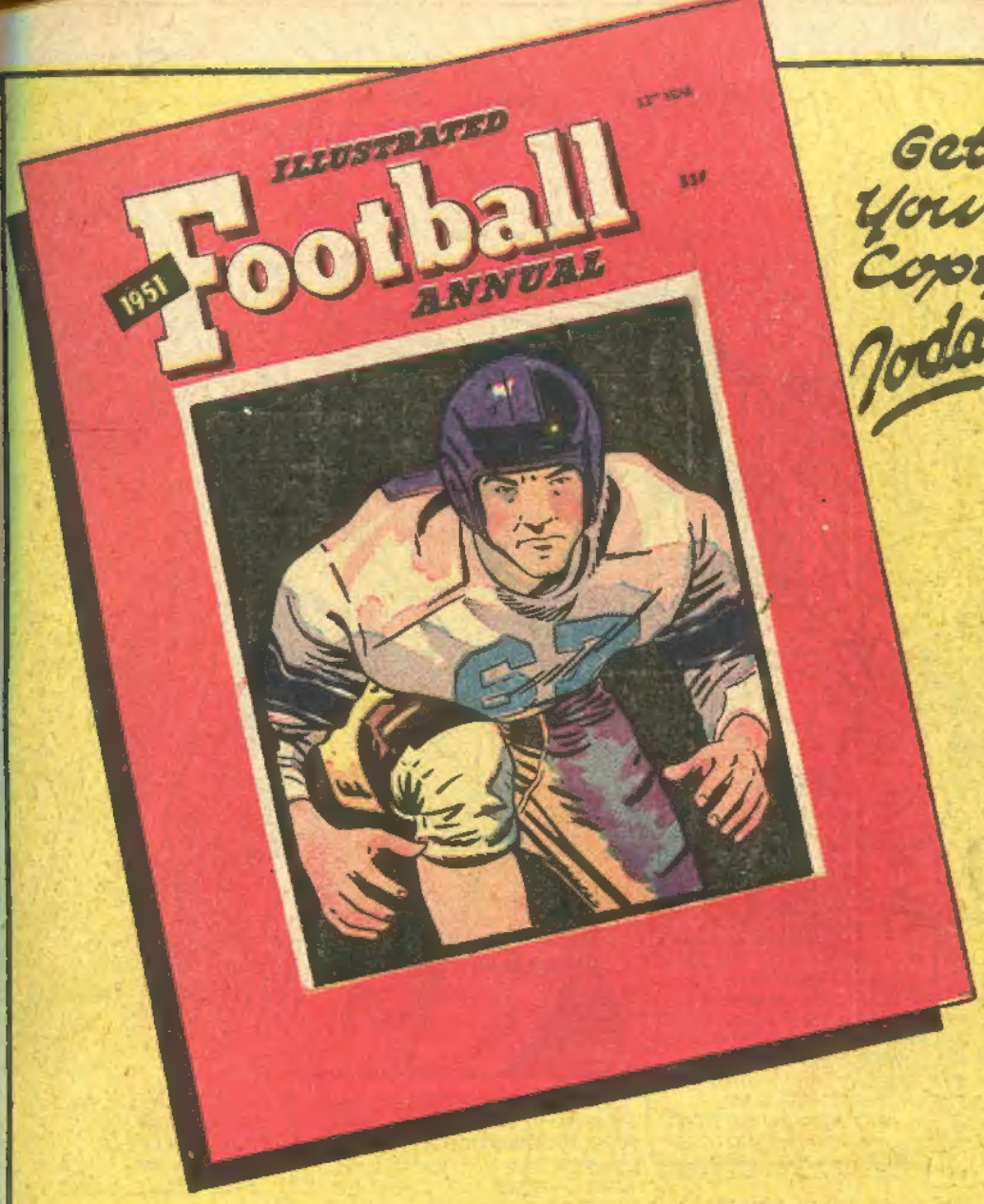

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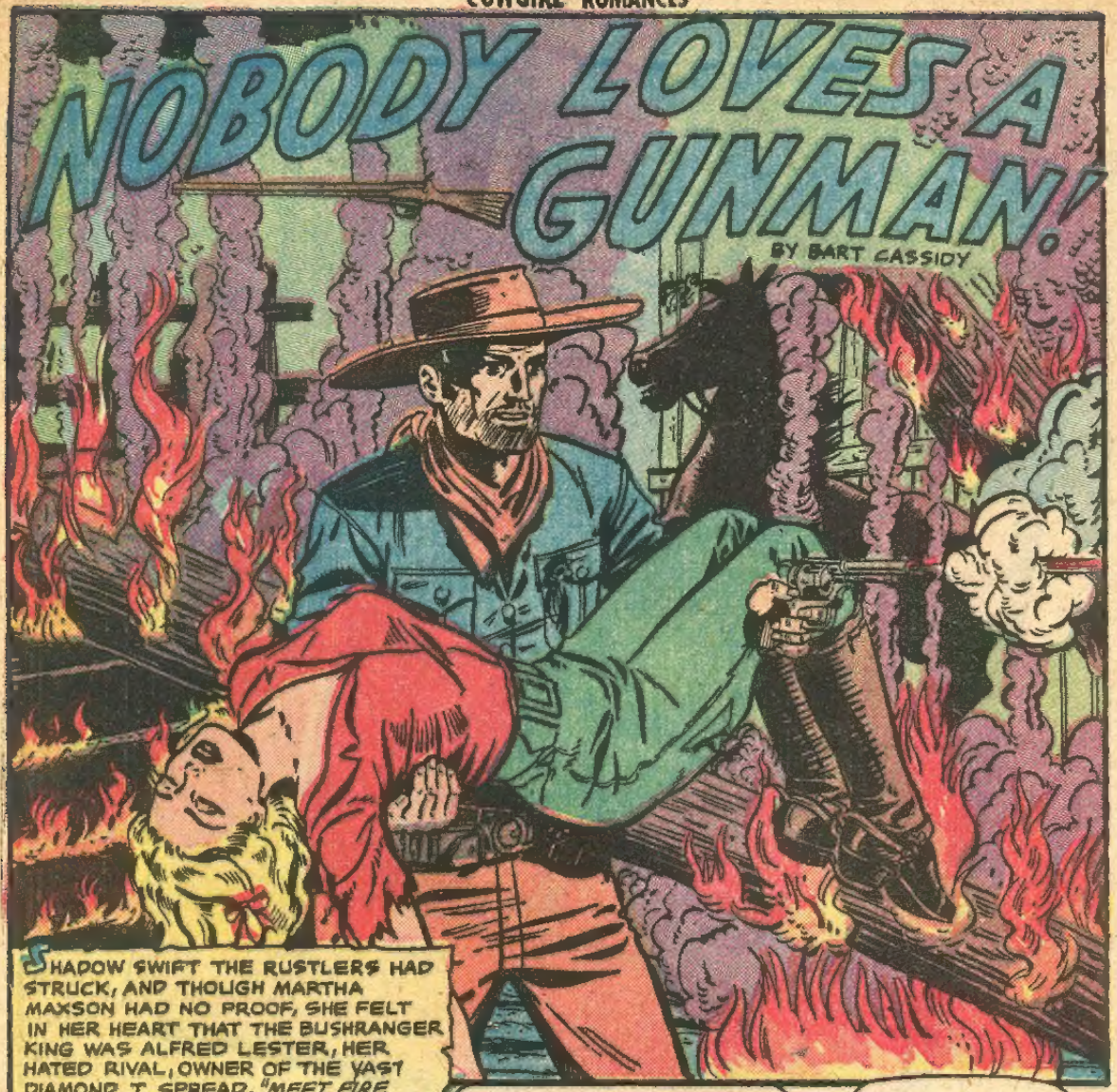
NOBODY LOVES A GUNMAN!

BY BART CASSIDY



SHADOW SWIFT THE RUSTLERS HAD STRUCK, AND THOUGH MARTHA MAXSON HAD NO PROOF, SHE FELT IN HER HEART THAT THE BUSHRANGER KING WAS ALFRED LESTER, HER HATED RIVAL, OWNER OF THE VAST DIAMOND T SPREAD. "*MEET FIRE WITH FIRE,*" HER FATHER HAD CAUTIONED — AND NOW, TOGETHER WITH HER FOREMAN AS THEY RODE TO TOWN...

MAYBE IT AIN'T MY PLACE TO MENTION IT, MISS MARTHA — BUT I THINK YOU'RE MAKIN' A MISTAKE IN HIRIN' THESE GUNMEN!

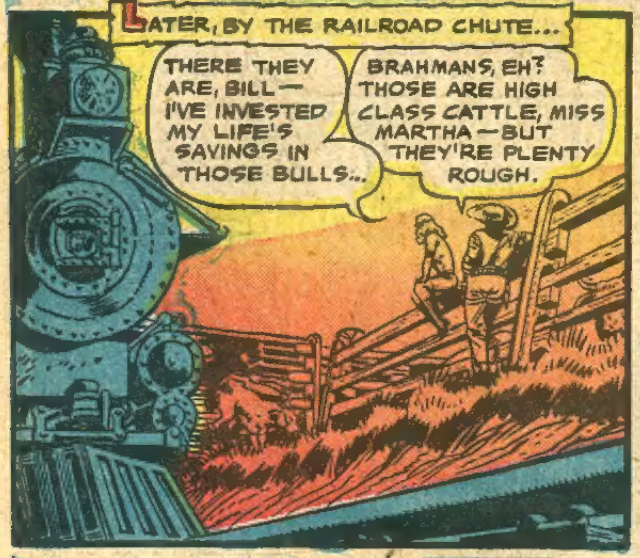
LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT, DENSIN — I'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME PROTECTION AGAINST LESTER AND HIS HOODLUMS. HURRY, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET THEM AT THE LIVERY STABLE, AND... *LISTEN!*

A SHOT! MAYBE THE TROUBLE I FEARED HAS ALREADY STARTED! COME ON!

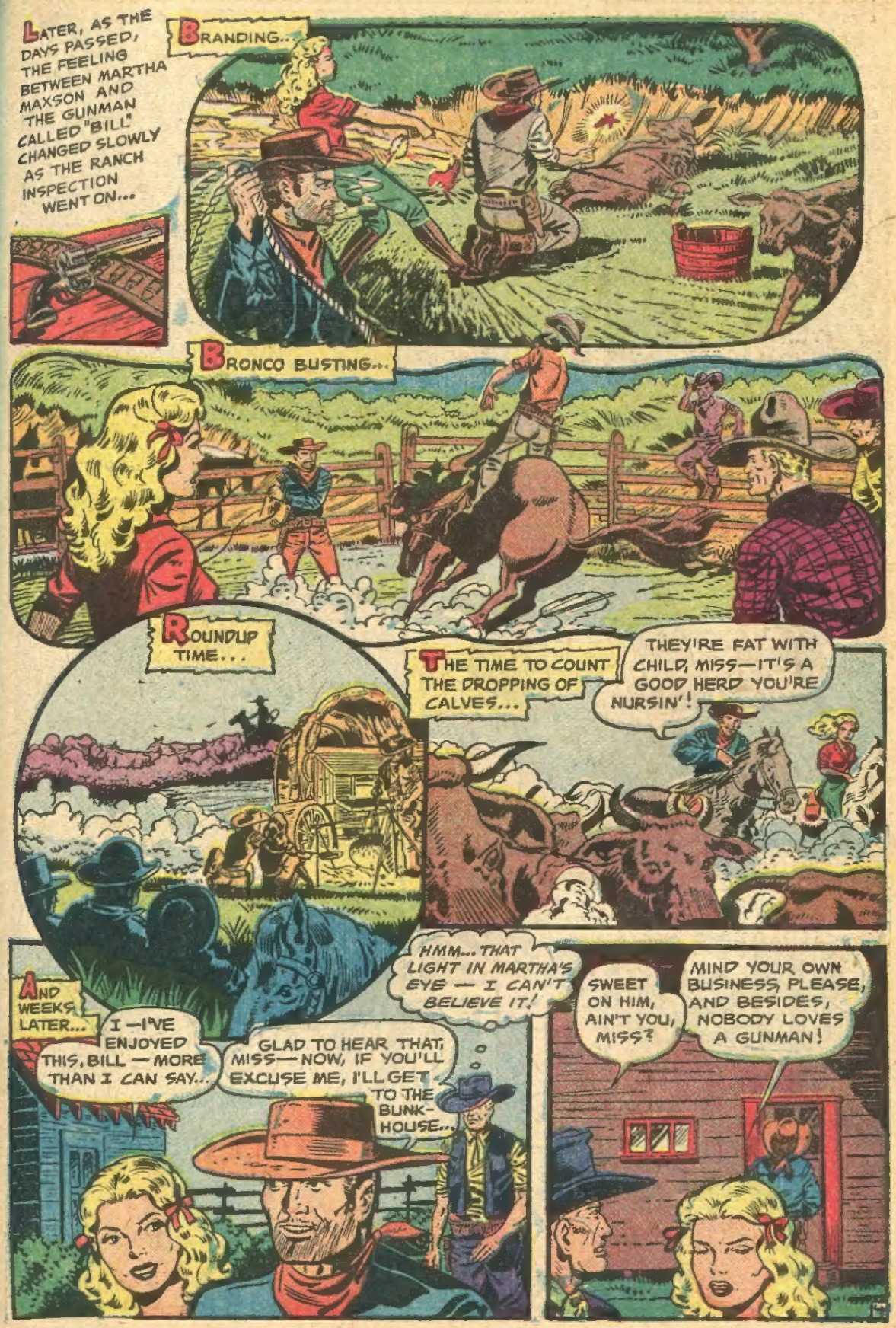
AS AHEAD, AT THE LIVERY STABLE...
HOLD IT, PUT THAT GUN DOWN— LET'S SEE WHAT LESTER'S MEN ARE UP TO BEFORE WE START A SHOOTIN' WAR!
I'LL TELL YOU, GUNMAN— STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER!
STABLE
WE DON'T WANT YOUR KIND AROUND HERE, COWBOY— THIS WAS A NICE QUIET TOWN UNTIL THAT MARTHA MAXSON BROUGHT YOU KILLERS HERE!
KILLERS, LESTER? THOSE ARE FIGHTIN' WORDS, BUT I DON'T LIKE TO SMACK AN OLD MAN...
WHY, YOU YOUNG SCALAWAG! I AIN'T AS OLD AS YOU THINK!
EASY, POP— DON'T BUST A GUT... HEY— WHAT'S THAT?
THE NAME'S MARTHA MAXSON— AND I'LL TROUBLE YOU, ALFRED LESTER, TO GET YOUR KILLERS OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW!
TAKE IT EASY, MISS MARTHA! THERE'S NOTHIN' WE KIN PROVE...
AND MOMENTS AFTER...
YOUR FOREMAN'S DURN RIGHT, MISS MAXSON—BUT THE FIGHT AIN'T OVER YET! THIS ROUND'S YOURS, BUT WE'LL WAIT AND SEE!
GOOD ENOUGH—NOW YOU AND YOUR MEN GET RIDING!
PRETTY SLICK, MISS— BUT ME AND THE BOYS COULD HAVE HANDLED IT. BY THE WAY, THE NAME'S BILL... JUST PLAIN BILL.
YOUR PAST DOESN'T INTEREST ME— HAVE YOUR MEN FOLLOW ME TO MY RANCH.
HMM... KIND O' HIGH AN' MIGHTY, EH, BILL?
RIGHT FOR ONCE, GOPHER— BUT I'M GLAD EVERY-THING WENT OFF ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO— THIS CASE IS GONNA BE INTERESTING, TO SAY THE LEAST!

WHILE, IN THE TOWN TAVERN...

OUT O' MY WAY, FLOSSIE— NO TIME FOR FUN—WHAT JUST HAPPENED AT THE STABLE IS SOMETHIN' THE BOSS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!
AH, ALWAYS THE EXCUSE...


LATER, BY THE RAILROAD CHUTE...
THERE THEY ARE, BILL— I'VE INVESTED MY LIFE'S SAVINGS IN THOSE BULLS...
BRAHMANS, EH? THOSE ARE HIGH CLASS CATTLE, MISS MARTHA—BUT THEY'RE PLENTY ROUGH.

SURE, MISS, GLAD TO OBLIGE—YOU HIRED ME AND MY GUN, SO SAY WHAT YOU WANT!
SO STRANGE—SO COLD AND HARD! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM I CAN'T HELP LIKING!


LATER, AS THE DAYS PASSED, THE FEELING BETWEEN MARTHA MAXSON AND THE GUNMAN CALLED "BILL" CHANGED SLOWLY AS THE RANCH INSPECTION WENT ON...
BRANDING...
BRONCO BUSTING...
ROUNDUP TIME...
THE TIME TO COUNT THE DROPPING OF CALVES...
THEY'RE FAT WITH CHILD, MISS—IT'S A GOOD HERD YOU'RE NURSIN'!
AND WEEKS LATER...
I—I'VE ENJOYED THIS, BILL—MORE THAN I CAN SAY...
GLAD TO HEAR THAT, MISS—NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'LL GET TO THE BUNK-HOUSE...
HMM... THAT LIGHT IN MARTHA'S EYE—I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
SWEET ON HIM, AIN'T YOU, MISS?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, PLEASE, AND BESIDES, NOBODY LOVES A GUNMAN!

AND MOMENTS AFTER...
LATER, THAT NIGHT, LEW BOLAN'S LONG RANGE PLAN FIRST STARTED...
FIRE! I'VE GOT TO DRESS AND HURRY OUTSIDE!
THE HORSE BARN'S BURNIN' LIKE HADES— ROUND UP ALL TH' HANDS!
GET A BUCKET BRIGADE GOIN'— IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE ANYTHING!
HEY, WHERE'S MARTHA? THIS RUCKUS SHOULDA WAKED HER UP...
IT WAKED HER UP TOO MUCH, GUNMAN! LOOK, SHE'S RUNNIN' INTO THE STALLS TO TRY AND SAVE 'EM!
THEY'RE CRAZED WITH FEAR—EVEN FLAMES WON'T MAKE THEM LEAVE THEIR STALLS! BUT I'VE GOT TO FORCE THEM OUT SOMEHOW...OHH! THAT FALLING TIMBER!
BUT AS THE HOLOCAUST RAGED...
MARTHA— MARTHA! WHERE ARE YOU?
SHE'S TRAPPED— I'VE GOT TO SAVE HER!
SHE SAID NOBODY LOVES A GUNMAN! BUT IF SHE ONLY KNEW THAT I'VE LOST MY HEART TO HER!
5

MORNING CAME; GRIM AND GRAY— WITH THE BARN'S A SMOLDERING MASS OF SPUTTERING FLAMES...
MOST OF MY BEST HORSES KILLED— AND I'M SURE I KNOW WHO STARTED THE FIRE! I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF A FEW OF THEM AS THEY RODE OFF... WHERE'S BILL AND THE OTHERS!
THEY LEFT COME DAWN, MISS MARTHA— THEY SAID THEY'D LOOK FOR THE TRAIL OF TH' KILLERS...
HUH! THEY'RE WASTING THEIR TIME— ALFRED LESTER'S BEHIND THIS, AND YOU KNOW IT AS WELL AS I DO! COME ON, LET'S RIDE!
MEANWHILE, NEARBY...
IT IS ONE OF THE BANDIT'S HORSES, SEÑOR LESTER... BUT THE BRAND HAS BEEN CHANGED TO MAKE IT APPEAR AS ONE OF OURS!
YEAH, AND THAT MAXSON GAL WOULD NEVER BELIEVE THAT IT WASN'T OUR NAG... MAYBE YOU'D BETTER UNTIE HIM AND SEE WHERE HE LEADS US...
SEÑOR! LOOK!
TRY TO WING THEM OR THEIR HORSES! THEY'RE ON OUR SPREAD, AND I BET MY BOTTOM DOLLAR THAT'S ALFRED LESTER AND HIS FOREMAN!
C'MON— BEAT IT! SHE'D NEVER BELIEVE THAT I AND MY SON ARE TRYIN' TO CLEAR THIS WHOLE THING UP!
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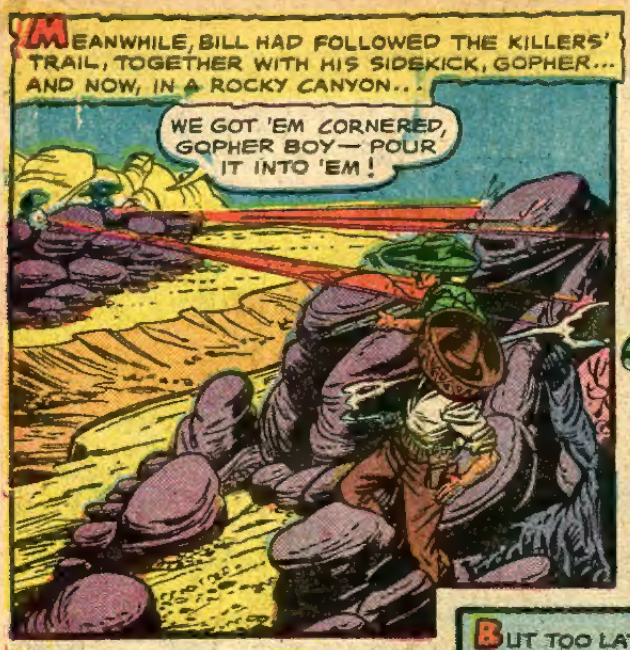
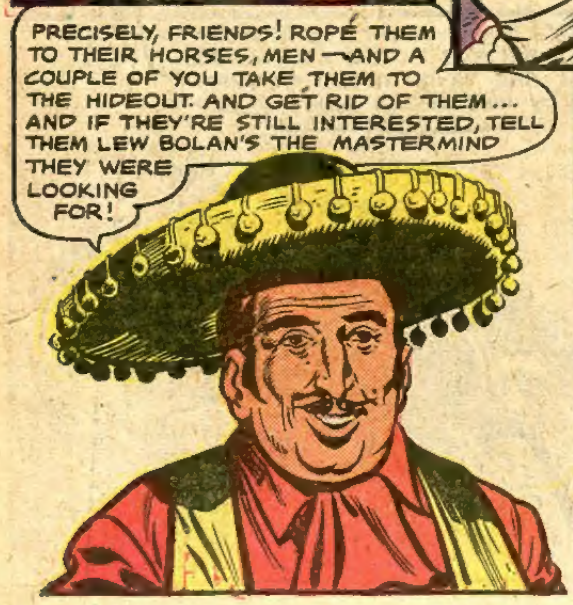

MEANWHILE, BILL HAD FOLLOWED THE KILLERS' TRAIL, TOGETHER WITH HIS SIDEKICK, GOPHER... AND NOW, IN A ROCKY CANYON...
WE GOT 'EM CORNERED, GOPHER BOY— POUR IT INTO 'EM!

HALT—HALT, SEÑORS! WE HAVE NO MORE BULLETS, WE SURRENDER! DO NOT KILL US...

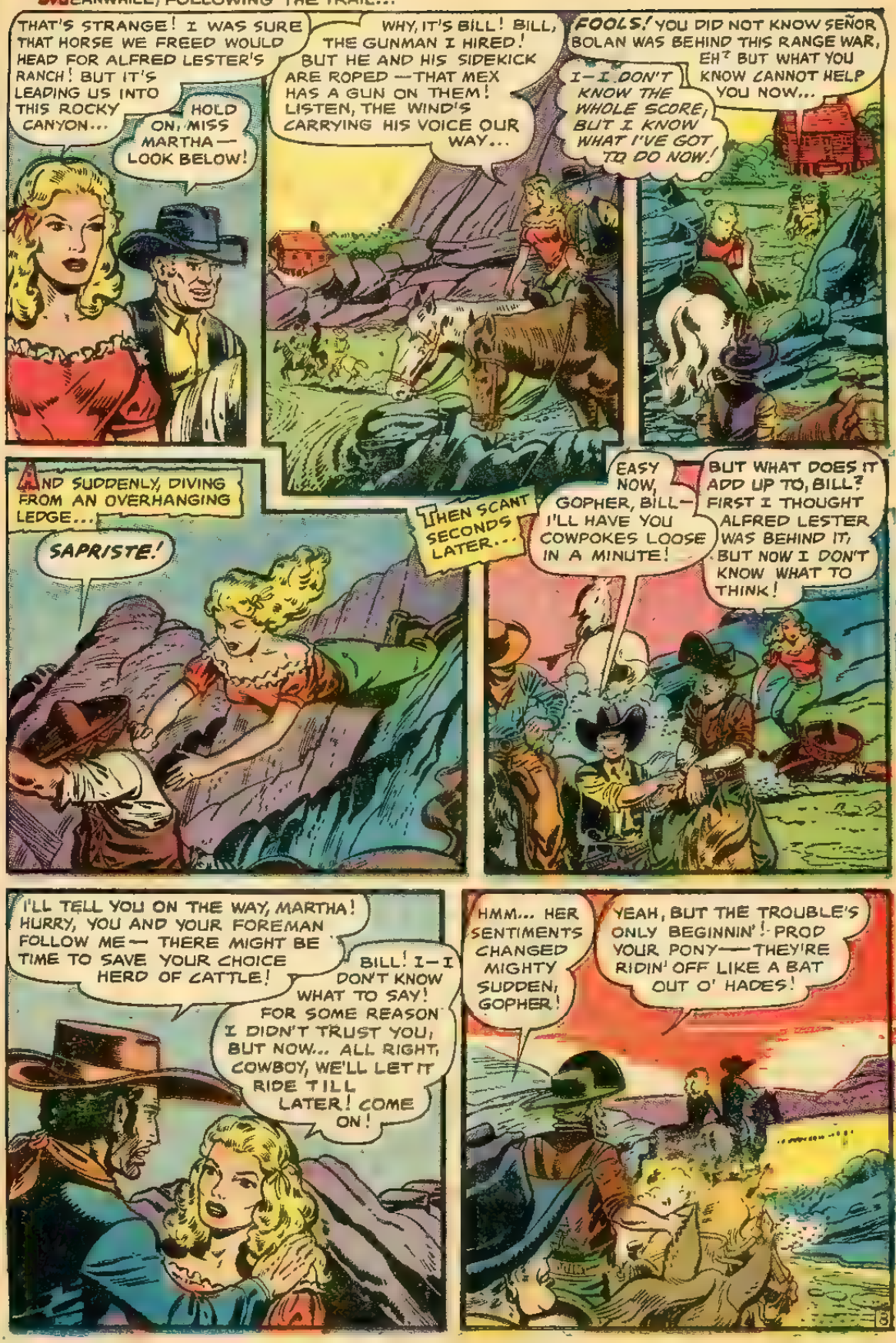
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN! WHO HIRED YOU? WHO'S THE BIG BOSS BEHIND THIS SETUP?
HOLD ON, BILL— WATCH OUT!!

BUT TOO LATE THE WARNING CRY! A SIX-GUN BELCHED—AND A LASSO SNARED...

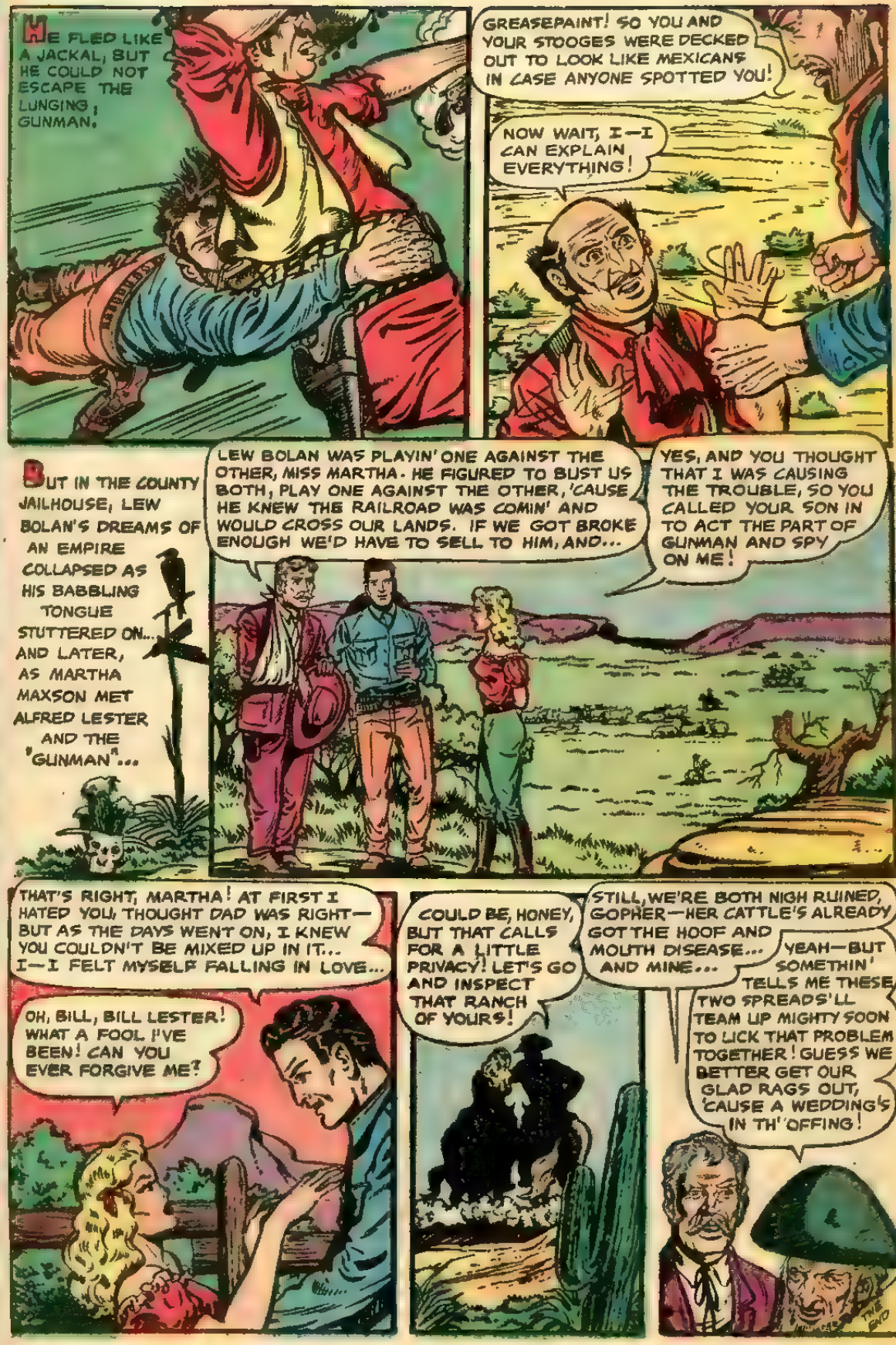
TH' REST O' TH' GANG SNUCK UP ON US, BILL— TRAPPED US PROPER!


PRECISELY, FRIENDS! ROPE THEM TO THEIR HORSES, MEN—AND A COUPLE OF YOU TAKE THEM TO THE HIDEOUT AND GET RID OF THEM... AND IF THEY'RE STILL INTERESTED, TELL THEM LEW BOLAN'S THE MASTERMIND THEY WERE LOOKING FOR!

YOU HEARD THE BOSS MAN, BOYS— DON'T TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF!
I WAS THE FOOL! MY FATHER AND I WERE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE—AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE TO HELP MISS MARTHA!


MEANWHILE, FOLLOWING THE TRAIL...
THAT'S STRANGE! I WAS SURE THAT HORSE WE FREED WOULD HEAD FOR ALFRED LESTER'S RANCH! BUT IT'S LEADING US INTO THIS ROCKY CANYON...
HOLD ON, MISS MARTHA — LOOK BELOW!
WHY, IT'S BILL! BILL, THE GUNMAN I HIRED! BUT HE AND HIS SIDEKICK ARE ROPED — THAT MEX HAS A GUN ON THEM! LISTEN, THE WIND'S CARRYING HIS VOICE OUR WAY...
FOOLS! YOU DID NOT KNOW SEÑOR BOLAN WAS BEHIND THIS RANGE WAR, EH? BUT WHAT YOU KNOW CANNOT HELP YOU NOW...
I—I DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE SCORE, BUT I KNOW WHAT I'VE GOT TO DO NOW!
AND SUDDENLY, DIVING FROM AN OVERHANGING LEDGE...
SAPRISTE!
THEN SCANT SECONDS LATER...
EASY NOW, GOPHER, BILL— I'LL HAVE YOU COWPOKES LOOSE IN A MINUTE!
BUT WHAT DOES IT ADD UP TO, BILL? FIRST I THOUGHT ALFRED LESTER WAS BEHIND IT, BUT NOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK!
I'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY, MARTHA! HURRY, YOU AND YOUR FOREMAN FOLLOW ME— THERE MIGHT BE TIME TO SAVE YOUR CHOICE HERD OF CATTLE!
BILL! I—I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! FOR SOME REASON I DIDN'T TRUST YOU, BUT NOW... ALL RIGHT, COWBOY, WE'LL LET IT RIDE TILL LATER! COME ON!
HMM... HER SENTIMENTS CHANGED MIGHTY SUDDEN, GOPHER!
YEAH, BUT THE TROUBLE'S ONLY BEGINNIN'! PROD YOUR PONY— THEY'RE RIDIN' OFF LIKE A BAT OUT O' HADES!

LATER, ON THE FRINGES OF MARTHA MAXSON'S RANCH...
C'MON, GET THE LAST OF THOSE MEXICAN CATTLE WITH HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE MINGLED IN WITH MARTHA MAXSON'S HERD...
THEY'RE ALL THROUGH, BOLAN— I'LL CLIP THESE WIRES TOGETHER AND... WATCH IT, LEW, HERE COMES TROUBLE!
HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE MEXICANS TO ME... WAIT!! I RECOGNIZE TH' LEADER— IT'S LEW—LEW BOLAN!
HE SNOOPED IN AT THE WRONG TIME, BUT THIS'LL KEEP HIS TRAP SHUT! KILL 'EM ALL, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET 'EM BLAB!
BUT FROM THE HILLS ABOVE...
I'M BEGINNING TO SEE DAYLIGHT, BILL! POUR THAT LEAD OF YOURS, GUNMAN!
MARTHA MAXSON AND HER MEN! RUN FOR IT, WE'VE ALREADY DONE WHAT WE WANTED! BY THE TIME SHE SORTS THOSE SICK CATTLE OUT, THE REST OF HER HERD WILL ALREADY BE INFECTED!
I'LL CUT YOU BOYS IN FOR PLENTY, AND... WHAT!!


He fled like a jackal, but he could not escape the lunging gunman.
Greasepaint! So you and your stooges were decked out to look like Mexicans in case anyone spotted you!
Now wait, I—I can explain everything!
But in the county jailhouse, Lew Bolan's dreams of an empire collapsed as his babbling tongue stuttered on... and later, as Martha Maxson met Alfred Lester and the "gunman"...
Lew Bolan was playin' one against the other, Miss Martha. He figured to bust us both, play one against the other, 'cause he knew the railroad was comin' and would cross our lands. If we got broke enough we'd have to sell to him, and...
Yes, and you thought that I was causing the trouble, so you called your son in to act the part of gunman and spy on me!
That's right, Martha! At first I hated you; thought Dad was right—but as the days went on, I knew you couldn't be mixed up in it... I—I felt myself falling in love...
Oh, Bill, Bill Lester! What a fool I've been! Can you ever forgive me?
Could be, honey, but that calls for a little privacy! Let's go and inspect that ranch of yours!
Still, we're both nigh ruined, Gopher—her cattle's already got the hoof and mouth disease... and mine...
Yeah—but somethin' tells me these two spreads'll team up mighty soon to lick that problem together! Guess we better get our glad rags out, 'cause a wedding's in th' offing!
The End

He Branded My Heart!

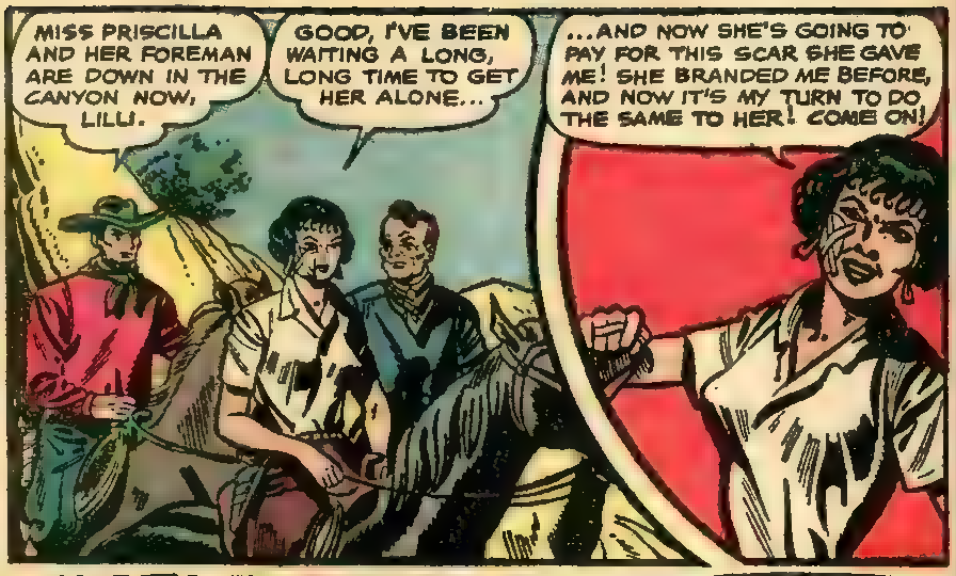
By Priscilla Hawkins

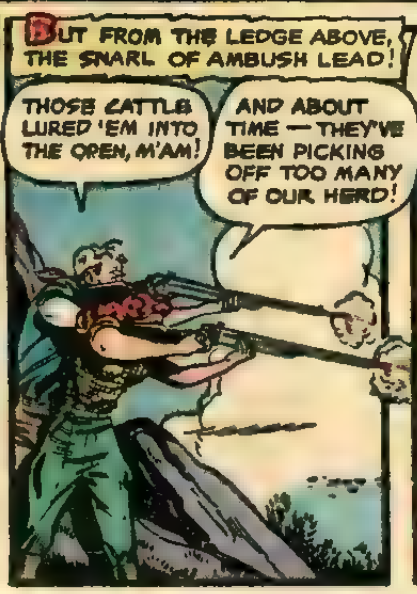
THE IRONS WERE RED WITH HATE AS THE ROUNDUP TIME WENT ON— THE STRAYS FROM ALL SPREADS WERE SORTED OUT, ROPED AND BRANDED — BUT BENEATH THE SHOUTS AND BELLOWS WAS THE UNSUNG SONG OF A LOVE DESTROYED!

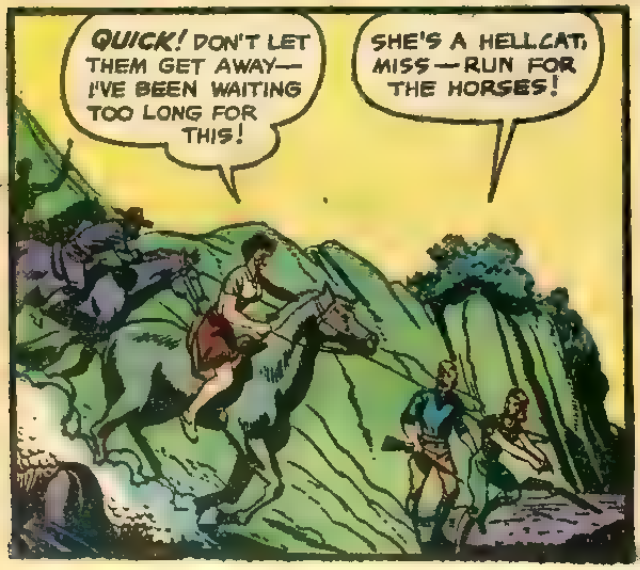
AND NOW...
HEY, NED! LOOKS LIKE ONE O' YOUR CATTLE HERE! C'MON, HUSTLE OVER—WHATEVER YOU'RE TELLIN' YOUR GAL CAN WAIT!
HE'S RIGHT, LILLI, I'VE GOT TO GO! BUT SOON AS I DO, THAT JOHNNIE HESTER'LL COME BARGING IN...
SO YOU ARE JEALOUS, EH? YOU AFRAID MAYBE HE STEAL MY HEART?
I HEARD YOU, NED SAMSON!
AND THE BARGING IN I'M DOIN' IS RIGHT HERE AND NOW! LILLI'S MY GAL, AND I'M STAKIN' MY CLAIM LIKE THIS!
TRY AGAIN, BUSTER! WE USED TO BE FRIENDS, BUT THIS ENDS IT ALL!
FOR LONG MINUTES THEY FOUGHT, SILENT AND GRIM — BUT AS THE ANGER GUNS WERE DRAWN...
STOP IT! NED, JOHNNIE, BREAK IT UP!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, PRISCILLA! I DON'T GIVE A HOOT IF YOU ARE MY SISTER, I'M GONNA KILL HIM!

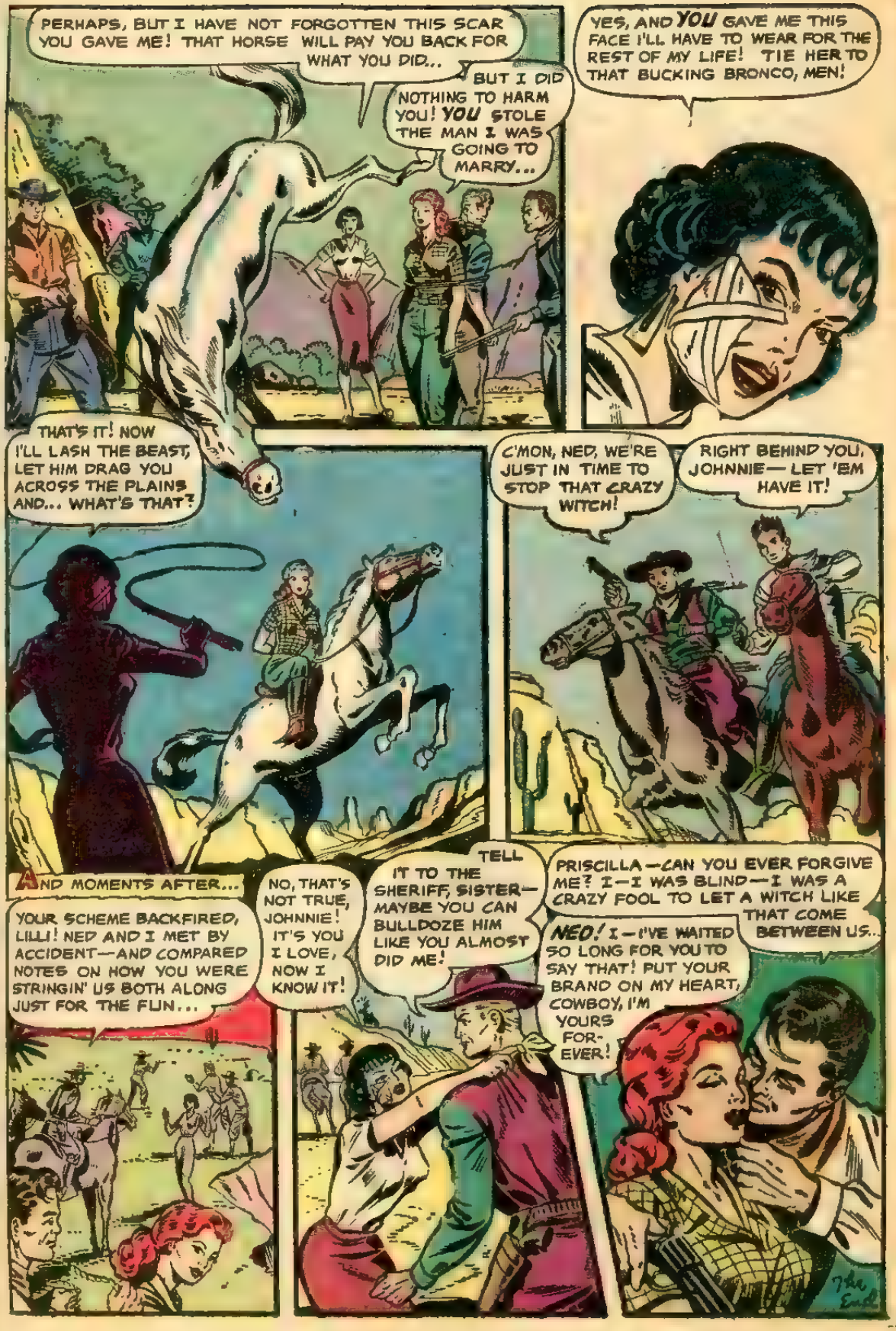
YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT, JOHNNIE! HOLD 'EM, MEN— GIVE THEM TIME TO COOL OFF!
HA! THEY WILL COOL OFF, MY DEAR PRISCILLA— BUT NED LOVES ME, AND THAT YOU CANNOT KILL!
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, LILLI! WHATEVER THERE WAS BETWEEN NED AND ME IS DEAD, THANKS TO YOU.
BUT BEFORE YOU GO, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE THRASHING YOU DESERVE! GET DOWN OFF THAT HORSE!
LET GO— LET GO! I WILL KILL YOU!
LIKE WILDCATS THEY STRUGGLED— ROLLING, TWISTING... AS HATE BURNED BRIGHT...
AND BEFORE THE STARTLED WATCHERS COULD ACT...
WATCH OUT!! THE BRANDING FIRE...
TOO LATE— LILLI ROLLED RIGHT INTO IT!
LILLI! I— I'M SORRY! LET ME HELP...
GET AWAY, FILTHY PIG! THE FIRE BRANDED ME FOR LIFE — BUT GIVE ME TIME AND I WILL BRAND YOUR HEART!

Scarred and disfigured, Lilli Andrey brooded and sulked, carefully plotted her revenge— and days later, together with her henchmen...


MISS PRISCILLA AND HER FOREMAN ARE DOWN IN THE CANYON NOW, LILLI.
GOOD, I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG, LONG TIME TO GET HER ALONE...
...AND NOW SHE'S GOING TO PAY FOR THIS SCAR SHE GAVE ME! SHE BRANDED ME BEFORE, AND NOW IT'S MY TURN TO DO THE SAME TO HER! COME ON!


BUT FROM THE LEDGE ABOVE, THE SNARL OF AMBUSH LEAD!
THOSE CATTLE LURED 'EM INTO THE OPEN, M'AM!
AND ABOUT TIME — THEY'VE BEEN PICKING OFF TOO MANY OF OUR HERD!




PERHAPS, BUT I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THIS SCAR YOU GAVE ME! THAT HORSE WILL PAY YOU BACK FOR WHAT YOU DID...
BUT I DID NOTHING TO HARM YOU! YOU STOLE THE MAN I WAS GOING TO MARRY...
YES, AND YOU GAVE ME THIS FACE I'LL HAVE TO WEAR FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! TIE HER TO THAT BUCKING BRONCO, MEN!
THAT'S IT! NOW I'LL LASH THE BEAST, LET HIM DRAG YOU ACROSS THE PLAINS AND... WHAT'S THAT?
C'MON, NED, WE'RE JUST IN TIME TO STOP THAT CRAZY WITCH!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, JOHNNIE— LET 'EM HAVE IT!
AND MOMENTS AFTER...
YOUR SCHEME BACKFIRED, LILLI! NED AND I MET BY ACCIDENT—AND COMPARED NOTES ON HOW YOU WERE STRINGIN' US BOTH ALONG JUST FOR THE FUN...
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE, JOHNNIE! IT'S YOU I LOVE, NOW I KNOW IT!
TELL IT TO THE SHERIFF, SISTER— MAYBE YOU CAN BULLDOZE HIM LIKE YOU ALMOST DID ME!
PRISCILLA—CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME? I—I WAS BLIND—I WAS A CRAZY FOOL TO LET A WITCH LIKE THAT COME BETWEEN US..
NED! I—I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR YOU TO SAY THAT! PUT YOUR BRAND ON MY HEART, COWBOY, I'M YOURS FOR-EVER!
The End

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By Sidney Elias

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TERROR ON THE RANGE

BY WILLIAM HELLING

THIS IS A STORY OF GREED, AND LUST FOR POWER...
GET MOVIN'— OR WE'LL SHOOT TO KILL!
WARNING! THIS WATERHOLE IS THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OF HANK McALLISTE
...OF RUSTLING...
NICE FAT BATCH, HANK... BUT IF JONATHAN WEST EVER GOT WIND O' WHAT WE'RE UP TO...
DON'T WORRY, THAT RICH BOY TRUSTS ME COMPLETELY! C'MON, GET THAT HERD ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE!
...OF VENGEANCE...
SHEEP HERDERS— THEY'LL RUIN THE RANGE! RUN 'EM OUT O' HERE!
...OF KILLERS ON THE PROWL.
DEVILS! THEY'RE WEARIN' MASKS, BUT I'D SWEAR IT'S McALLISTER'S MEN! WE'RE LICKED— TOO MANY FOR US!
AND THE STRONG ARM OF TERROR THAT WAS HANK McALLISTER'S SOON SPREAD THE RANGE, BUT THE RUMBLINGS OF UNREST COULD NOT BE STILLED—AND NOW THE ANGRY VOICE OF SALLY HOGARTH WAS SHOUTING...
GET THE BOYS TOGETHER AND MEET ME AT PINE RIDGE ROAD— WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THE LAW INTO OUR OWN HANDS!

AND LATER...

WHAT'RE YOU AIMIN' TO DO, SALLY? THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD REALLY PROVE HANK McALLISTER'S BEHIND THIS TROUBLE!
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW, HERE COMES THE STAGE!
QUICK, GET YOUR MASKS ON—I FOUND OUT THAT ONE OF THE COACH'S PASSENGERS IS JONATHAN WEST, THE OWNER OF THE CIRCLE B THAT McALLISTER MANAGES!
TAKE IT EASY, WILL YOU? THIS WAGON'S A LITTLE TOO JUMPY TO SUIT ME!
BUT IT SUITS ME, MISTER! YOU MAY BE ROLLIN' IN DOUGH LIKE THEY SAY...
BUT YOU'RE NOT TELLIN' ME WHAT TO DO. IF YOU HAD ONE OUNCE O' SENSE YOU'D SEE THROUGH THAT FOREMAN O' YOURS— WHAT'S THAT?
PULL UP, DRIVER— AND YOU WON'T GET HURT!
W—WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? I'M JONATHAN WEST— I'LL HAVE THE SHERIFF...
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE KIND! YOU'RE RIDING WITH ME, MISTER, NOW GET DOWN, AND HURRY! ALL RIGHT, MEN, BRING UP A HORSE FOR THE TENDERFOOT!
THIS IS KIDNAPPING, YOU KNOW—IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, YOU'LL BE HUNG!
I'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE—IT'S WORTH IT IF I CAN SHOW YOU HOW WRONG YOU'VE BEEN!

JONATHAN WEST, RICH AND PAMPERED, FOUND HIS BLUSTERING THREATS MEANT NOTHING AS THIS FIRM-VOICED COWGIRL TOLD HIM HOW HIS FOREMAN TERRORIZED THE RANGE... AND LATER, OUTSIDE A BURNED DOWN RANCH...

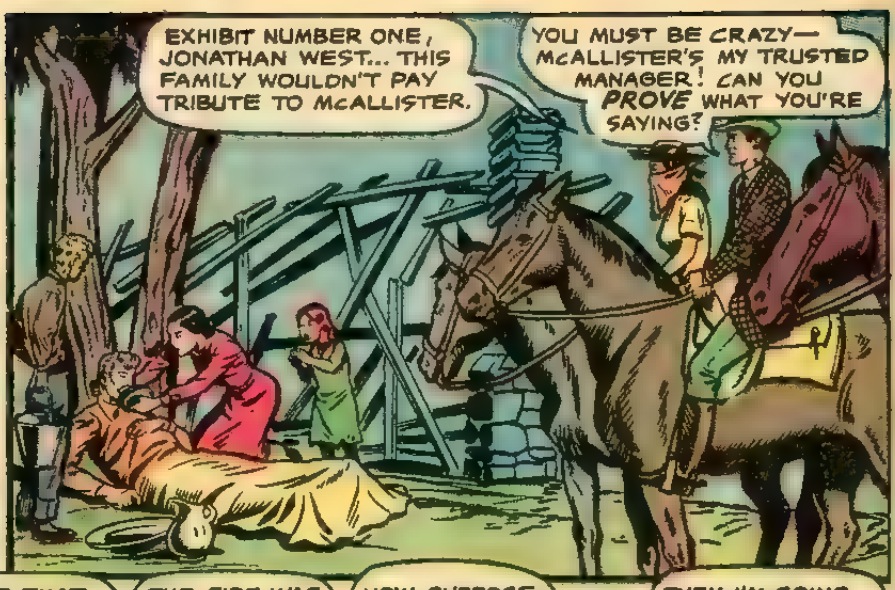
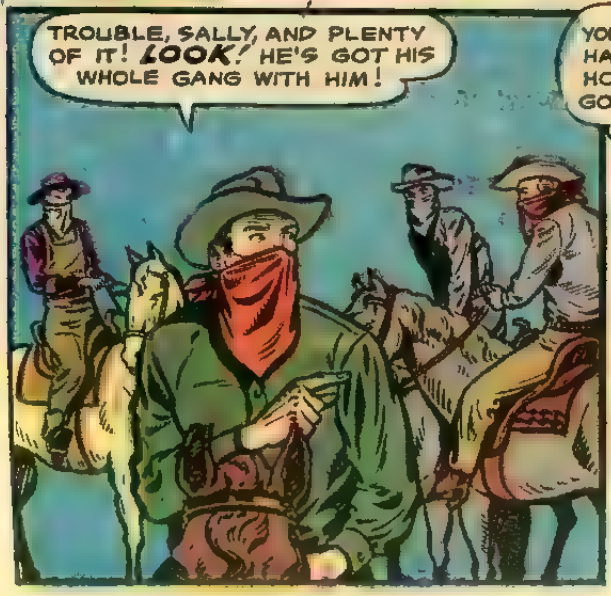
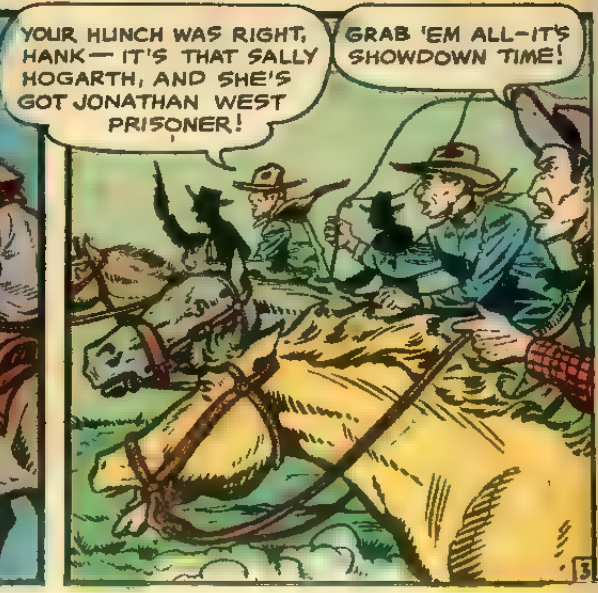


EXHIBIT NUMBER ONE, JONATHAN WEST... THIS FAMILY WOULDN'T PAY TRIBUTE TO McALLISTER.
YOU MUST BE CRAZY— McALLISTER'S MY TRUSTED MANAGER! CAN YOU PROVE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

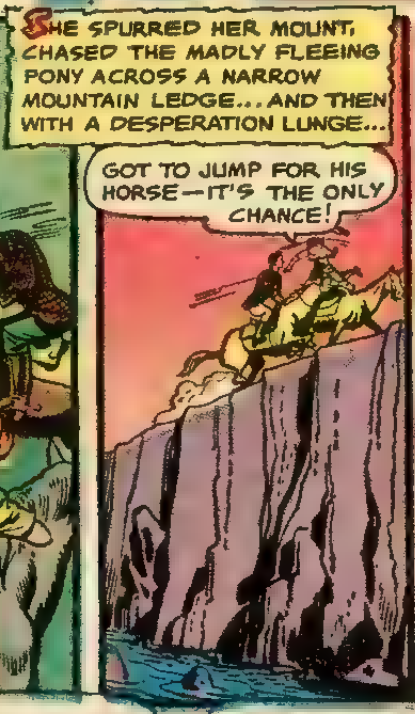
NO, NOT WITH PROOF THAT WOULD STAND UP IN COURT! BUT ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BE BULLIED BY McALLISTER?
THE FIRE WAS PROBABLY AN ACCIDENT, MISS WHOEVER YOU ARE.

NOW SUPPOSE YOU STOP THIS NONSENSE AND CUT ME LOOSE. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED MY MIND.
THEN I'M GOING TO KEEP ON TRYING! WE'LL RIDE TO WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE COMMUNITY WATER HOLE AND... WHAT'S WRONG?

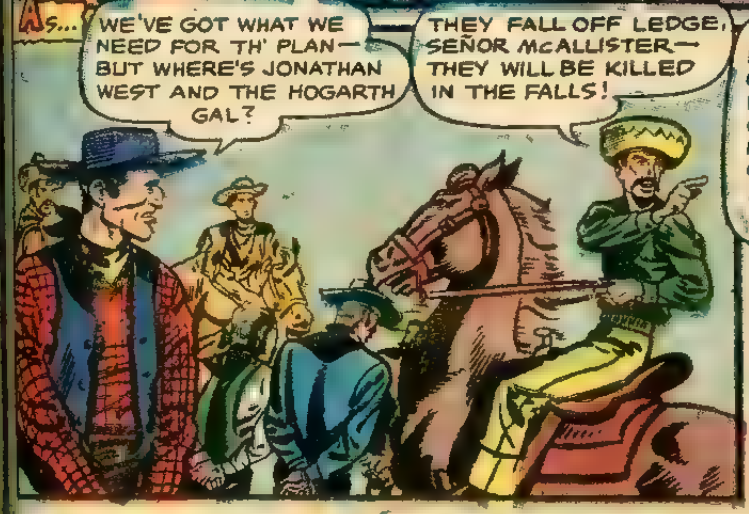




Outnumbered four to one, Sally and her men fought back, but the savage horde could not be halted!


SHE SPURRED HER MOUNT, CHASED THE MADLY FLEEING PONY ACROSS A NARROW MOUNTAIN LEDGE... AND THEN WITH A DESPERATION LUNGE...
GOT TO JUMP FOR HIS HORSE—IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE!

MADE IT! I'LL CUT YOU FREE, THEN JUMP!
BUT AS THE ROPES ARE SLASHED, THE LEDGE COLLAPSES, AND DOWN THEY PLUMMET TO THE CHURNING WATERS BELOW!


AS...
WE'VE GOT WHAT WE NEED FOR TH' PLAN—BUT WHERE'S JONATHAN WEST AND THE HOGARTH GAL?
THEY FALL OFF LEDGE, SEÑOR McALLISTER—THEY WILL BE KILLED IN THE FALLS!
MAYBE SO, BUT IT WON'T DO NO HARM TO MAKE SURE! A COUPLE OF YOU GET BELOW AND LOOK FOR THE BODIES—THE REST OF US WILL TAKE THE PRISONERS TO TOWN FOR A GOOD OLD FASHIONED NECKTIE PARTY!

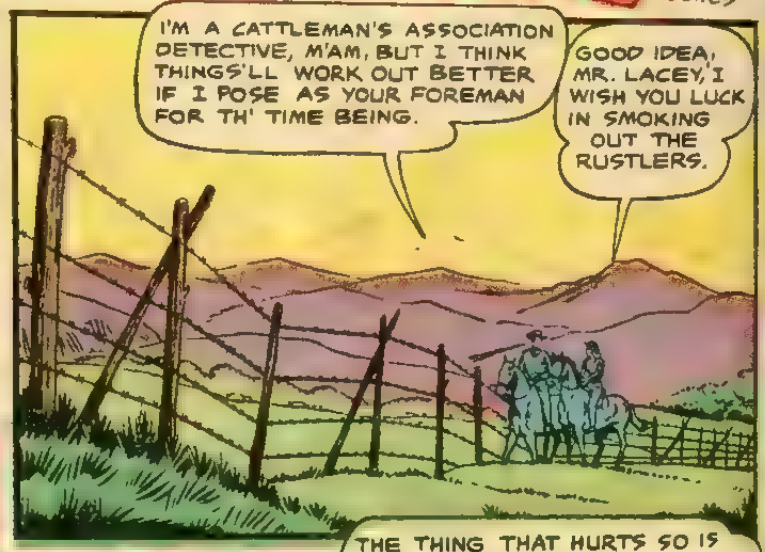
I MAY BE A TENDERFOOT WHEN IT COMES TO RIDING, BUT THERE'S ONE THING I CAN DO, AND THAT'S SWIM! HEY, HER MASK CAME OFF...
LORD! WHAT A BEAUTY— I DIDN'T KNOW WESTERN GIRLS CAME THIS PRETTY! BUT HER ARM'S BEEN HURT— GOT TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE UNTIL SHE COMES AROUND...
AND MINUTES LATER IN A NEARBY CAVE...
THERE! MY SHIRT'LL DO THE TRICK UNTIL WE CAN REACH A DOCTOR.
YOU—YOU SAVED MY LIFE...AND NOW YOU'RE DOING THIS FOR ME! AND AFTER WHAT I DID...
NOW HOLD ON! I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE McALLISTER'S DOING WHAT YOU SAY— DON'T FORGET YOU KIDNAPPED ME, AND HE WAS PROBABLY TRYING TO RESCUE ME...
SHH! STONES RATTLING, HOOF-BEATS! BE QUIET AND LISTEN!
PAH, WE WASTE OUR TIME, PEDRO— SURELY THEY MUST HAVE DROWNED!
SI, AMIGO. COME, LET US HURRY TO TOWN AND WATCH THE FUN.
AND WHAT FUN, EH? SEÑOR McALLISTER WILL SAY THAT SEÑORITA HOGARTH'S MEN CAPTURED AND KILLED THIS JONATHAN WEST...
SI! THEN WE WILL ANGER THE CROWD, MAKE THEM STORM THE JAIL!
WHAT A FOOL— WHAT A BLIND FOOL I'VE BEEN— BUT IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE A FEW CHANGES!

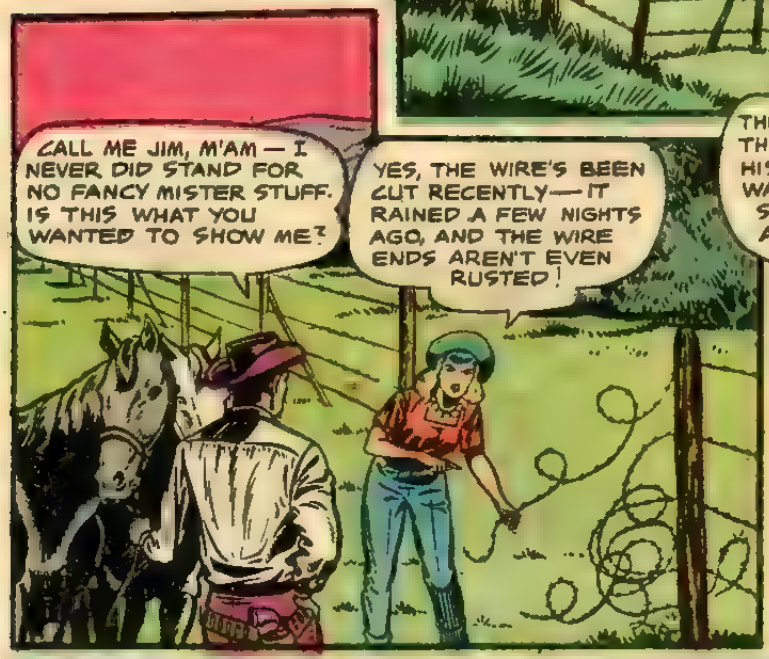
LATER, IN TOWN, THE ANGER SHOUTS WERE GROWING...
THEY'RE MURDERERS! BATTER DOWN THE DOOR AND STRING 'EM UP!
GET BACK! AS LONG AS I'M SHERIFF I'M GONNA SEE THAT THEY GET A FAIR TRIAL!
OUT OF THE WAY, SHERIFF— WE'LL SAVE THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY AND DO THE JOB OURSELVES! I SAW THEM KILL JONATHAN WEST!
LET THE COURT DECIDE THAT, McALLISTER! ALL RIGHT, I CAN'T STOP YOU, MEN, BUT I'M HOLDIN' EACH AND EVERY ONE RESPONSIBLE!
C'MON—SMASH THE DOOR!
HANK! LOOK WHO'S RIDIN' IN!
STOP! YOU'VE ALMOST BEEN TRICKED INTO HANGING INNOCENT MEN! HERE'S JONATHAN WEST—AND ONE OF McALLISTER'S MEN THAT'LL TELL YOU THE TRUE STORY!
I'LL TAKE OVER FROM HERE ON IN, SALLY— AND HERE'S THE FIRST ONE TO SETTLE WITH! START TALKING McALLISTER, OR I'LL THROW YOU TO THE CROWD!
WAIT! I—I'LL TALK!
OH, AND THAT'S ANOTHER THING, BOYS— THIS JUDGE CHANGED HER NAME JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO— NOW IT'S MRS. SALLY WEST!
THEN, AFTER HANK McALLISTER AND HIS KILLERS WERE LOCKED UP...
THERE, YOU'RE FREE NOW, MEN. McALLISTER CONFESSED EVERYTHING! WHEN HE HEARD I WAS COMING TO INSPECT THE RANCH, HE DECIDED TO KILL ME AND PUT THE BLAME ON YOU— YOU SEE, I HAD TOLD HIM THAT IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO ME, HE WOULD HAVE THE RANCH.
AND HE ALMOST GOT AWAY WITH IT... IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR SALLY HOGARTH...
THE END

Heartbreak TRAIL

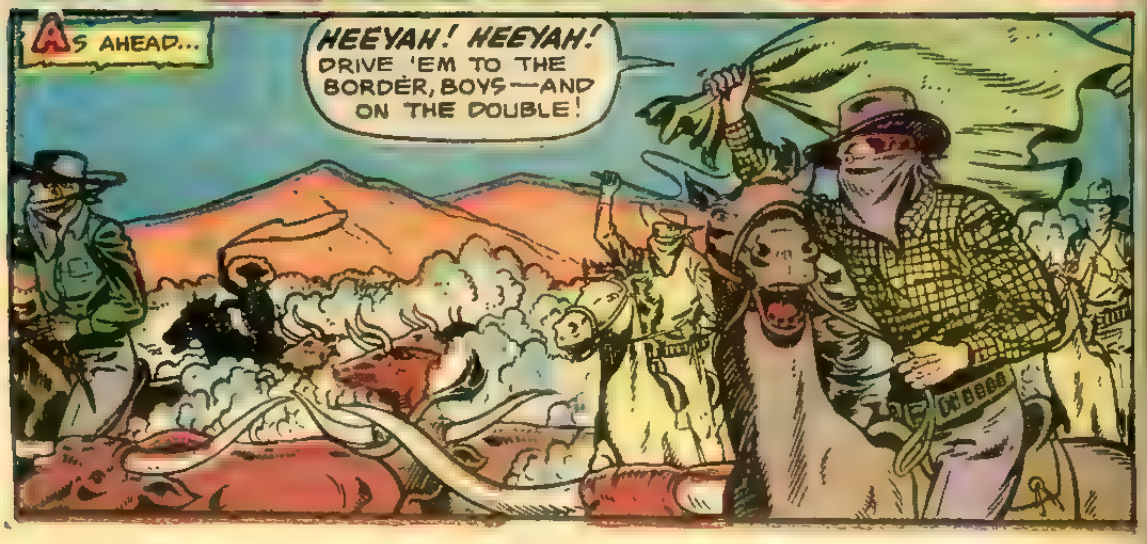
BY Newell Jones

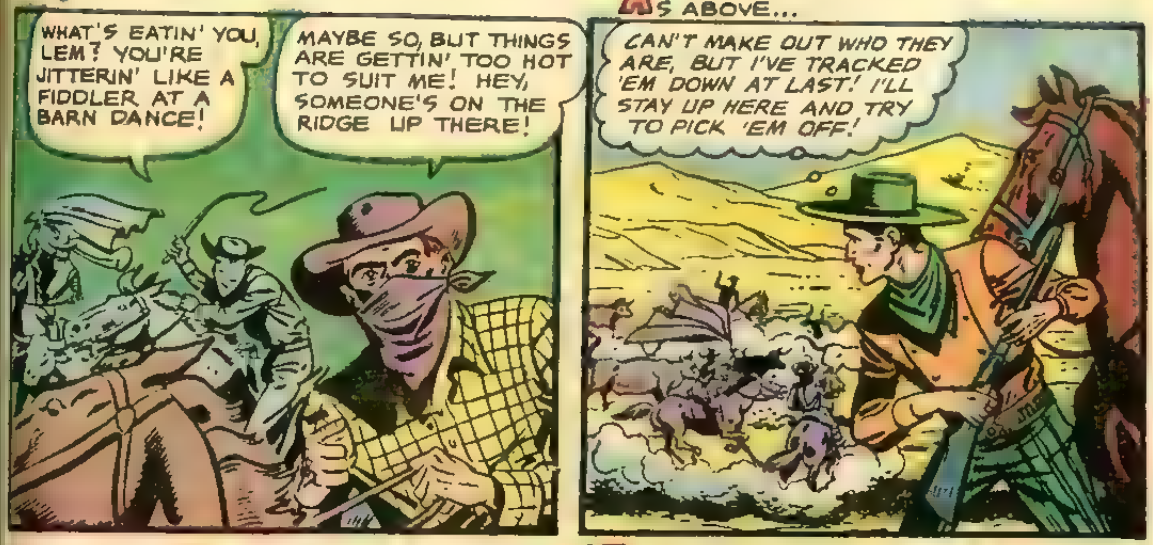
GHOST RIDERS PROWLED THE WESTERN PLAINS— STRUCK WITH SWIFT AND SURE PRECISION. AND AS THE CATTLE LOSSES MOUNTED, THE TEMPERS FLARED, AND THE HATRED GREW— BUT FOR NANCY REARDON IT ALSO BROUGHT A BROKEN HEART, FOR SHE FELT THAT THE RENEGADE LEADER WAS THE MAN THAT SHE HOPED TO MARRY! AND NOW, RIDING FENCE ON HER BAR Y RANCH...

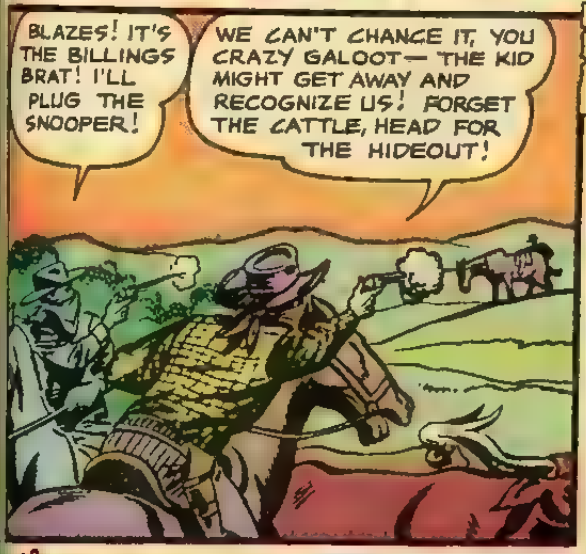

I'M A CATTLEMAN'S ASSOCIATION DETECTIVE, M'AM, BUT I THINK THINGS'LL WORK OUT BETTER IF I POSE AS YOUR FOREMAN FOR TH' TIME BEING.
GOOD IDEA, MR. LACEY, I WISH YOU LUCK IN SMOKING OUT THE RUSTLERS.

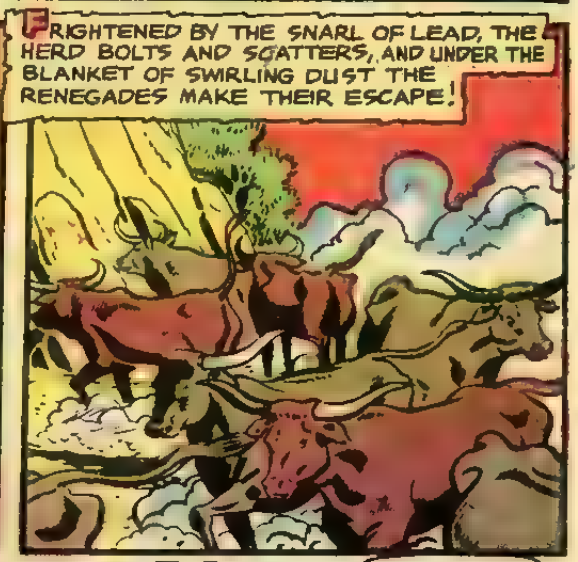

CALL ME JIM, M'AM — I NEVER DID STAND FOR NO FANCY MISTER STUFF. IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME?
YES, THE WIRE'S BEEN CUT RECENTLY— IT RAINED A FEW NIGHTS AGO, AND THE WIRE ENDS AREN'T EVEN RUSTED!

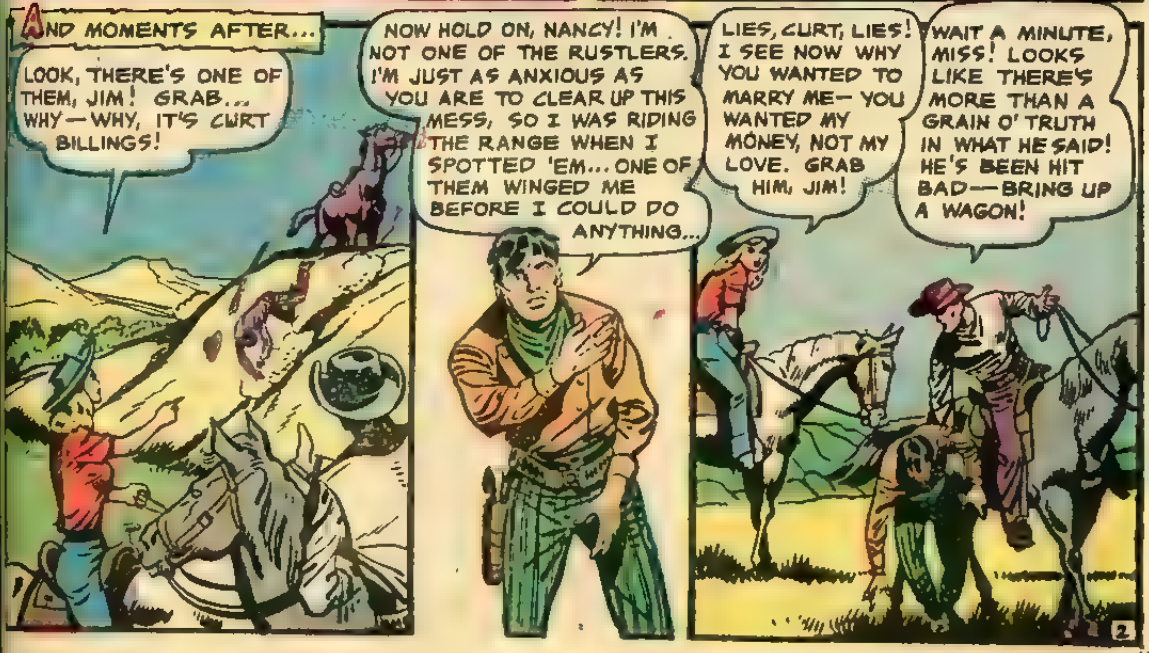
THE THING THAT HURTS SO IS THAT I THINK CURT BILLINGS AND HIS UNCLE ARE BEHIND IT... WAIT, DID YOU HEAR THAT? SHOUTS FROM THE VALLEY AHEAD! COME ON!




WHAT'S EATIN' YOU, LEM? YOU'RE JITTERIN' LIKE A FIDDLER AT A BARN DANCE!
MAYBE SO, BUT THINGS ARE GETTIN' TOO HOT TO SUIT ME! HEY, SOMEONE'S ON THE RIDGE UP THERE!
CAN'T MAKE OUT WHO THEY ARE, BUT I'VE TRACKED 'EM DOWN AT LAST! I'LL STAY UP HERE AND TRY TO PICK 'EM OFF!


BLAZES! IT'S THE BILLINGS BRAT! I'LL PLUG THE SNOOPER!
WE CAN'T CHANCE IT, YOU CRAZY GALOOT— THE KID MIGHT GET AWAY AND RECOGNIZE US! FORGET THE CATTLE, HEAD FOR THE HIDEOUT!


FRIGHTENED BY THE SNARL OF LEAD, THE HERD BOLTS AND SCATTERS, AND UNDER THE BLANKET OF SWIRLING DUST THE RENEGADES MAKE THEIR ESCAPE!

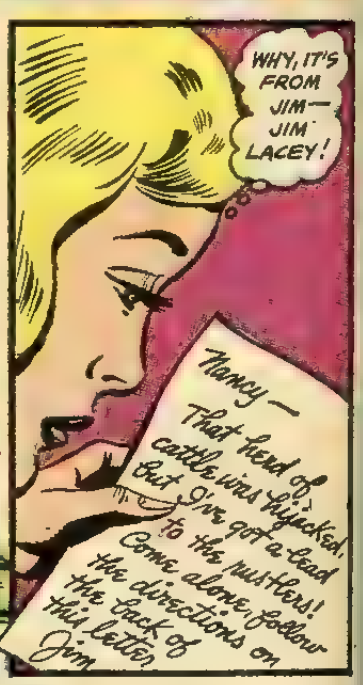

AND MOMENTS AFTER...
LOOK, THERE'S ONE OF THEM, JIM! GRAB... WHY—WHY, IT'S CURT BILLINGS!
NOW HOLD ON, NANCY! I'M NOT ONE OF THE RUSTLERS. I'M JUST AS ANXIOUS AS YOU ARE TO CLEAR UP THIS MESS, SO I WAS RIDING THE RANGE WHEN I SPOTTED 'EM... ONE OF THEM WINGED ME BEFORE I COULD DO ANYTHING...
LIES, CURT, LIES! I SEE NOW WHY YOU WANTED TO MARRY ME— YOU WANTED MY MONEY, NOT MY LOVE. GRAB HIM, JIM!
WAIT A MINUTE, MISS! LOOKS LIKE THERE'S MORE THAN A GRAIN O' TRUTH IN WHAT HE SAID! HE'S BEEN HIT BAD— BRING UP A WAGON!

LATER, NEARING THE NEIGHBORING BAR X SPREAD...
SNAP IT UP, BILLINGS! YOUR DARLING SNOOPING NEPHEW'S BEEN WOUNDED!
WHAT! HOW'D IT HAPPEN— OR DO I HAVE TO GUESS?
EVER SINCE YOU ACCUSED ME OF RUSTLING YOUR CATTLE, YOU BEEN ITCHIN' FOR TROUBLE— BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D START THROWIN' LEAD!
I DIDN'T DO IT, YOU— YOU RANGE SKUNK! ONE TIME I ALMOST CAUGHT ONE OF YOUR MEN IN THE ACT...
AND IF I EVER DO AGAIN, I'LL PUT YOU BEHIND BARS WHERE YOU BELONG!
SPITFIRE, EH? JUST LIKE YOUR NO GOOD FATHER, ALWAYS SHOOTIN' OFF YOUR MOUTH AND ACTIN' THE BIG SHOT!
YOU CAN'T TALK THAT WAY ABOUT MY FATHER! I'LL, I'LL...
HEY, HOLD ON THERE!
BREAK IT UP, YOU TWO— WE'LL SETTLE THIS PEACEFUL LIKE! C'MON, MISS NANCY, IT'S TIME FOR US TO GET ALONG!
AND AS THEY RIDE OFF...
WHEW! THAT NEPHEW OF YOURS ALMOST SPOTTED US, BART. WE HAD TO WING 'IM TO ESCAPE!
FORGET THAT SNOOPIN' CURT— IT'S THAT GAL THAT I'M SORE ABOUT!
SHE'S GETTIN' TOO CLOSE TO TH' TRUTH, BOYS— IT'S ABOUT TIME WE CUT HER DOWN TO SIZE! BUT LAY LOW FOR A WHILE, I'LL TELL YOU WHEN TO STRIKE NEXT!

DAYS LATER, A FURTIVE FIGURE NEARED THE BAR Y RANCH...
THAT'S STRANGE, WHY ARE THEY BRANDIN' CATTLE AT THIS TIME O' TH' SEASON? BUT IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH ME—MY JOB'S TO TRY AND MAKE NANCY UNDERSTAND!
AS...
THE IRONS ARE RED HOT, JIM—LET'S GET ON WITH THIS!
SURE THING, MISS NANCY, SOON AS I HAWG TIE THIS CRITTER, WE'LL PUT THAT PLAN O' MINE INTO OPERATION!
I—I'M NOT SO SURE, JIM—DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'LL WORK? MAYBE I WAS WRONG ABOUT CURT BEING MIXED UP IN THIS. MAYBE...
NOW YOU STOP FRETTIN', MISS—JUST HAND ME A FEW OF THEM COINS FROM THAT SILVER NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARIN'.
THAT'S THE TICKET! THIS HERE COIN'S GONNA FLUSH US A PACK O' RUSTLERS!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!
I KNOW I'M RIGHT—NO REASON FOR THIS TRICK TO FAIL! HEY, LOOK WHAT ONE O' YOUR RANNIES FOUND!
HE WAS OVER BY THE WEST CORRAL, M'AM—SNOOPIN' AROUND!
I WASN'T SNOOPING! I RODE OVER, HOPING TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE THAT I WASN'T MIXED UP IN THAT MESS BEFORE!
CURT BILLINGS!
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN! GET RIDING, COWBOY, RIDE OFF THIS RANCH AND OUT OF MY LIFE FOREVER!
4

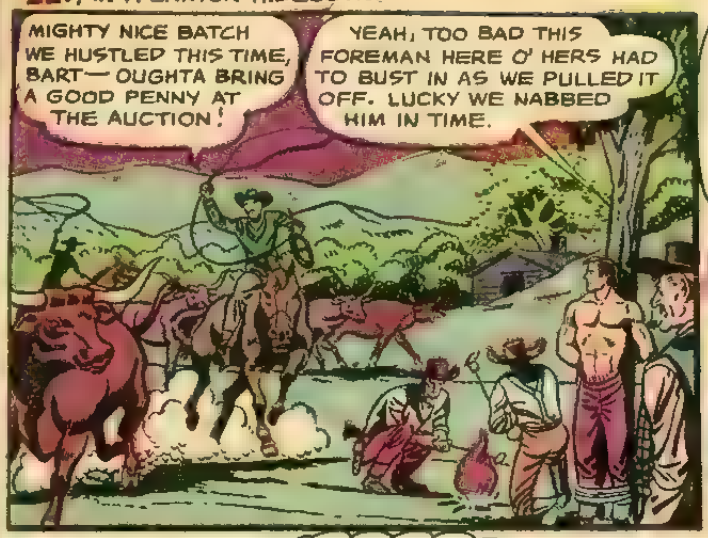
HEARTBROKEN, CONVINCED THAT THE MAN SHE LOVE IS BEHIND THE WAVE OF RUSTLING, NANCY REARDON BURIED HER GRIEF IN SONG AND DANCE. AND WEEKS LATER, THE YARD WAS ECHOING THE FIDDLER'S SONG...

I'm WORRIED ABOUT JIM LACEY... HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO LOOK OVER THAT CHOICE HERD WE DOCTORED... HE SHOULD HAVE RETURED LONG AGO!
HOLD ON, M'AM— LISTEN!

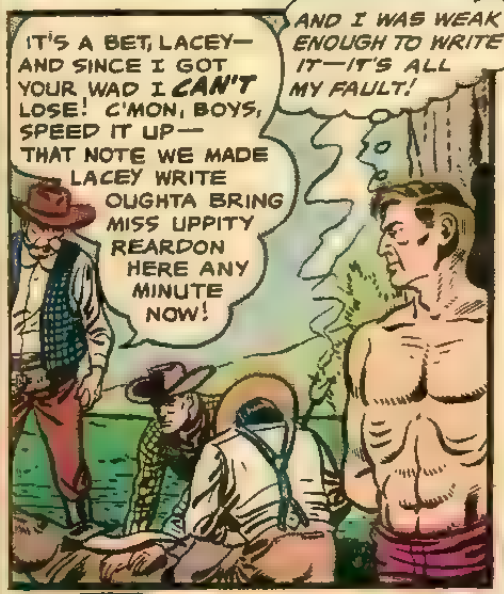

WHY, IT'S FROM JIM— JIM LACEY!
Nancy— That herd of cattle was hijacked, but I've got a lead to the rustlers! Come alone, follow the directions on the back of this letter. Jim

BUT I THINK I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS— YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN!
TELL IT TO THE SHERIFF! AND GET OFF MY RANCH, I WANT NO PART OF THIEVES OR LIARS!

As, in a canyon hideout...

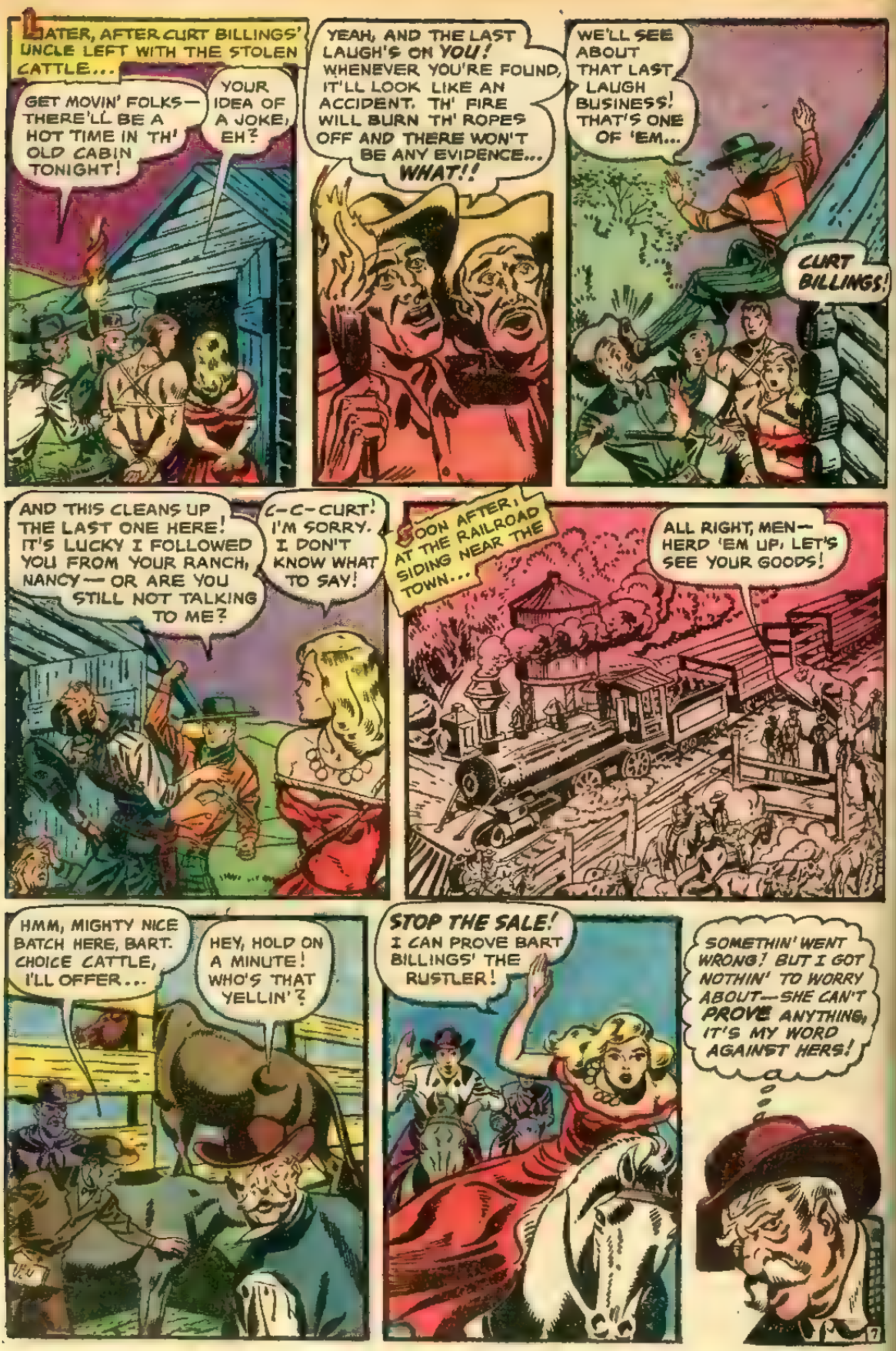

MIGHTY NICE BATCH WE HUSTLED THIS TIME, BART— OUGHTA BRING A GOOD PENNY AT THE AUCTION!
YEAH, TOO BAD THIS FOREMAN HERE O' HERS HAD TO BUST IN AS WE PULLED IT OFF. LUCKY WE NABBED HIM IN TIME.

GIVE A LOOK, JIM LACEY— HERE'S HOW WE'LL DO IT— FROM BAR Y TO BAR X— AND NO ONE CAN PROVE A THING!
MEBBE SO, BILLINGS— BUT FIVE'LL GET YOU TEN YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!


IT'S A BET, LACEY— AND SINCE I GOT YOUR WAD I CAN'T LOSE! C'MON, BOYS, SPEED IT UP— THAT NOTE WE MADE LACEY WRITE OUGHTA BRING MISS UPPITY REARDON HERE ANY MINUTE NOW!
AND I WAS WEAK ENOUGH TO WRITE IT—IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

Meanwhile, following the directions on the map, Nancy Reardon neared the rustlers' roost, and soon after, nearing an apparently deserted hideout...

JIM! I GOT YOUR NOTE! WHAT HAPPENED? HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS THING?
CAN'T ANSWER— SHE MIGHT RECOGNIZE MY VOICE! GOTTA MAKE HER COME A LITTLE CLOSER!


LATER, AFTER CURT BILLINGS' UNCLE LEFT WITH THE STOLEN CATTLE...
GET MOVIN' FOLKS— THERE'LL BE A HOT TIME IN TH' OLD CABIN TONIGHT!
YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE, EH?
YEAH, AND THE LAST LAUGH'S ON YOU! WHENEVER YOU'RE FOUND, IT'LL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT. TH' FIRE WILL BURN TH' ROPES OFF AND THERE WON'T BE ANY EVIDENCE... WHAT!!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT LAST LAUGH BUSINESS! THAT'S ONE OF 'EM...
CURT BILLINGS!
AND THIS CLEANS UP THE LAST ONE HERE! IT'S LUCKY I FOLLOWED YOU FROM YOUR RANCH, NANCY— OR ARE YOU STILL NOT TALKING TO ME?
C-C-CURT! I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
SOON AFTER, AT THE RAILROAD SIDING NEAR THE TOWN...
ALL RIGHT, MEN— HERD 'EM UP, LET'S SEE YOUR GOODS!
HMM, MIGHTY NICE BATCH HERE, BART. CHOICE CATTLE, I'LL OFFER...
HEY, HOLD ON A MINUTE! WHO'S THAT YELLIN'?
STOP THE SALE! I CAN PROVE BART BILLINGS' THE RUSTLER!
SOMETHIN' WENT WRONG! BUT I GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT—SHE CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING, IT'S MY WORD AGAINST HERS!
7

LOOK HERE, EVERYBODY! WEEKS AGO JIM LACEY PUT A SILVER COIN, A COIN FROM MY NECKLACE, UNDER THE SKIN OF THESE CATTLE! YOU CAN FEEL IT, IT'S RIGHT HERE!
WHAT'S THAT? THE BRAND WAS BAR X, BUT IF WHAT MISS REARDON IS SAYING IS TRUE...
IT'S TRUE— TOO DURN TRUE! GOTTA GET OUT O' HERE FAST!
HOLD ON, UNCLE, YOU'RE STAYIN' TO FACE THE MUSIC!
THEN A LIGHTNING LUNGE—PENT-UP FURY BURSTING WILD!
LEGGO! GET 'IM OFF ME!
NOT UNTIL YOU START TALKING, MISTER! MAKE IT FAST, YOU RUINED EVERYTHING BETWEEN ME AN' NANCY— BUT YOU'RE NOT GONNA RUIN ME!
S—STOP, CURT! I—I'LL TALK!
LATER, WITH BART BILLINGS' HENCHMEN SAFELY BEHIND BARS...
WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY, NANCY—I KNOW YOU'RE SWEET ON THIS JIM LACEY FOREMAN OF YOURS...
AND I'D LIKE TO BE SWEET ON HER, CURT— 'CEPT FOR ONE THING, NAMELY THIS!
... MEET MY WIFE AND KIDS, FOLKS, I'M THINKIN' IT'S ABOUT TIME I FORGET THIS CATTLEMAN'S DETECTIVE JOB AND... HEY, ARE YOU TWO LISTENIN'?
HO-HUM! ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, EH? GOOD LUCK, KIDS— AND INCIDENTALLY, THAT FIVE I TOOK FROM BART BILLINGS OUGHTA BUY A MIGHTY HANDSOME WEDDING PRESENT!
THE END

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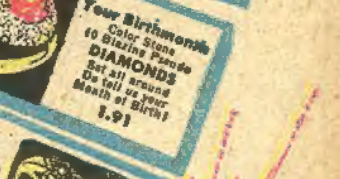

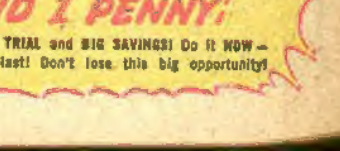

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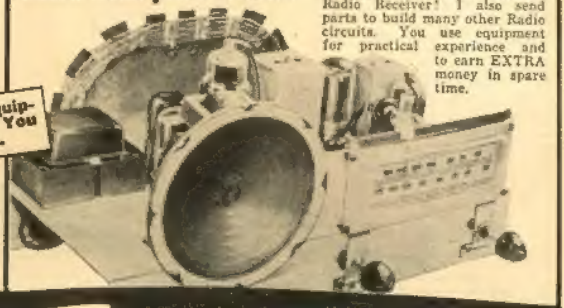

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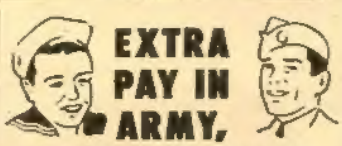

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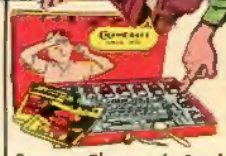

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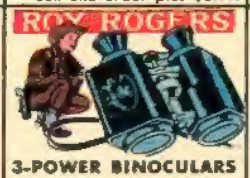

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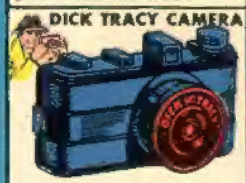

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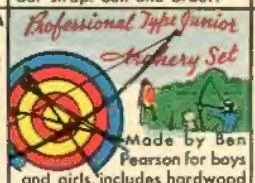

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